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GARBAGE GAZETTE

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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DEP Sponsors Variable Rate Pricing Workshop

In cooperation with the Coalition of Northeast Governors (CONEG), the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection will sponsor a workshop for local recycling coordinators and other municipal officials on variable rate pricing for solid waste. Currently, seven municipalities in Connecticut use some form of this system to charge residents for solid waste disposal. Also known as pay-per-bag, variable rate pricing systems charge residents according to the amount of trash that they generate, instead of charging everyone a flat rate. This type of system has been implemented in many communities to encourage both source reduction of solid waste and increased recycling.

The workshop will take place at the DEP Offices on 79 Elm Street in Hartford, on Thursday, November 9, 1995. The program will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no fee to attend this program. Lunch will be on your own. If you would like more information, please contact Bob Hannon at (860) 424-3022 or Kim Trella at (860) 424-3365.

Fight Against Illegal Dumping Update

Back in January of this year a cooperative project to combat illegal dumping in Connecticut's cities was launched in Bridgeport. This cooperative project, which involves the Department of Environmental Protection, the Alternative Incarceration Center and city government officials has made tremendous progress over the past 9 months. The program has moved from Bridgeport to the City of Hartford, where they have been combating illegal dumping throughout September. Twenty-one areas in Hartford and twenty areas in Bridgeport have already been reclaimed.

The following items are typical of what has been found at these sites: mattresses, sofas, household garbage, 40-50 hypodermic needles, dead animals, and a 9mm loaded gun. These are just some of the items that the crew runs into as they work to combat illegal dumping. The crew is a group of dedicated clients from Alternative Incarceration of Bridgeport. Alternative Incarceration of New London has also recently joined the fight. Together, they are fourteen members strong.

The Department would like to thank the cities of Bridgeport and Hartford for becoming the first cities to take a stand against illegal dumping. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Jacquelyn Pernell at (860) 424-3365.

"Ray Cycle" Bookings Closed for 1995-1996 School Year

For the first time in the long history of the "Ray Cycle" program, all available appointments for an entire school calendar year were booked as of September. Over 225 performances of the tremendously popular new show have been booked. We can only schedule new appointments after July 1996. If you would like to have "Ray Cycle" visit your school or organization to teach children about composting, closing the recycling loop, and reducing waste through interactive song and lecture, please call Arlene Cyr at (860) 424-3365. Please note that a minimum audience of 100 is required.

Upcoming Meeting

"Options for Texas", 9th Annual Municipal Solid Waste Management Conference, will be held at the Austin Convention Center on December 13-15, 1995. For more information contact Gary Trim, TNRCC Municipal Solid Waste Division, at (512) 239-6708.

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Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation Establishes Hotline

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) has set up a phone number to assist consumers in locating places to recycle their nickel-cadmium batteries. Just dial 1-800-8BATTERY and punch in your zip code. The hotline will direct you to the nearest participating retail outlet to which you can bring your nickel-cadmium batteries for recycling. To date, Radio Shack stores across the state have agreed to participate in the RBRC program. More commitments are forthcoming. The RBRC has been contacting Connecticut retail outlets to request their assistance. The program is financed by the RBRC at no cost to the store. Nickel-cadmium batteries will soon be a mandatory recyclable in Connecticut. If you have any questions about this program, contact Tom Metzner at (860) 424-3365.

New Education Materials Available

The CT DEP Recycling Program has added some new materials to its extensive list of educational resources. We now have available the coloring book "*Composting Matters*". This 12-page book is suitable for pre-school through 2nd grade students. A combined teacher/student coloring poster, titled "*Recycle, It's a Part of Life*", is also available. This 17" x 22" poster has an original drawing on one side and classroom activities on the back. The activities include a lunch box source reduction activity which allows teachers to integrate math and waste reduction concepts, a household hazardous waste activity, suggestions for integrating composting into a science curriculum and other fun ways to incorporate the 3 R's (reducing, reusing and recycling) into daily classroom activities. ***These materials are available in quantity to schools in Connecticut and in-state municipalities or civic organizations.*** If you would like to order these materials or learn more about recycling education programs in our state, please contact Meg Enkler at (860) 424-3365.

CRC Sponsors Sculpture Contest

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC) recently sponsored a sculpture contest for children in grades 3-8. The theme of the contest was *The Beauty of Recycling*. Students were asked to create 3-dimensional sculptures made from items that had been used at least once. Judges were Mike Paine of Paine's, Inc., Kathy Dube from CRCOG, Judy Belaval of CT DEP, Cheryl Burke from CRRA and Mike Bisi, Recycling Coordinator from Glastonbury. Prizes were awarded at the CRC Annual Meeting on October 19, 1995. First place winners received a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, second place winners received a notebook made from reclaimed circuit boards and third place winners received a cotton T-shirt made from respun mill trimmings.

The winners in the 3rd and 4th grade category were: Kyla McGlynn of Branford from the John B. Sliney School (1st prize), Kelley Harpin from the Warren School in Warren (2nd prize), Neil Bliven from Mohegan School in Uncasville (3rd prize). The winners in the 5th and 6th grade category were: Jeffrey Laine from Windsor Locks Middle School (1st prize), Jennifer Dragoli from Mohegan School in Uncasville (2nd prize), Tom Ritson from Botelle Elementary School in Norfolk (3rd prize). The winners in the 7th and 8th grade category were: Marc D. Larose, Jr. from Bennet Middle School in Manchester (1st prize), James Michalek from Illing Middle School in Manchester (2nd prize), and Michael McGreal of Pleasant Valley from Northwestern Middle School in Region #7 (3rd prize).

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